Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A two-way locking mechanism for a container comprising:

a locking flap having a plurality of buttons and an inner closure mechanism containing an inwardly recessed pocket and an outwardly extending member located above the inwardly recessed pocket;

a lid having a plurality of closing apertures adapted to receive the plurality of buttons, and further having an outer closure mechanism having an inwardly extended member adapted to be received by the inner closure mechanism of the locking flap;

wherein:

the plurality of buttons extend from the locking flap in a first direction and the outer closure mechanism extends from the lid in a second direction opposite the buttons[[,]] when the locking mechanism is in a locked position; and

the outwardly extending member of the inner closure mechanism of the locking flap is aligned above the inwardly extending member of the lid when the inwardly extending member of the lid is received by the inwardly recessed pocket.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The two-way locking mechanism of claim [[15]] 14, wherein the outwardly extending member of the locking flap and the inwardly extending member of the lid have reciprocally projecting feet.

17. (Previously Presented) The two-way locking mechanism of claim 14 wherein the plurality of buttons are provided with feet to assist in securing the container in its closed position.

18. (Currently Amended) The two-way locking mechanism of claim [[15]] 14 further comprising at least one nub, wherein the at least one nub applies an outward tension to the locking flap when the container is closed.

19-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) An egg carton with a two-way locking mechanism comprising:

a base having a plurality of egg cells;

a locking flap attached to the base by at least one hinge, the locking flap having a plurality of buttons and an inner closure mechanism containing an inwardly recessed pocket and an outwardly extending member located above the inwardly recessed pocket;

a lid attached to the base by at least one hinge, the lid having a plurality of closing apertures adapted to receive the plurality of buttons, and further having an outer closure mechanism having an inwardly extended member adapted to be received by the inner closure mechanism of the locking flap;

wherein:

the plurality of buttons extend from the locking flap in a first direction and the outer closure mechanism extends from the lid in a second direction opposite the buttons when the locking mechanism is in a locked position; and

the outwardly extending member of the inner closure mechanism of the locking flap is aligned above the inwardly extending member of the lid when the inwardly extending member of the lid is received by the inwardly recessed pocket.

38. (New) The egg carton of claim 37, wherein at least three hinge members attach the locking flap to the base.

39. (New) The egg carton of claim 37, wherein at least three hinge members attach the lid to the base.

40. (New) The egg carton of claim 37, wherein the carton is composed of a

thermoplastic material.

41. (New) The egg carton of claim 37, wherein the egg cells are equipped with projections adapted to allow air to circulate around substantially all of the egg.

42. (New) The egg carton of claim 37, wherein the outwardly extending member of the locking flap and the inwardly extending member of the lid have reciprocally projecting feet.

43. (New) The egg carton of claim 42 wherein the plurality of buttons are provided with feet to assist in securing the container in its closed position.

44. (New) The egg carton of claim 37 further comprising at least one nub, wherein the at least one nub applies an outward tension to the locking flap when the container is closed.

44. (New) The egg carton of claim 37, wherein the at least one hinge member applies outward tension to the locking flap when the carton is closed.

45. (New) A method for securing a container having a two-way locking mechanism comprising the steps of:

positioning a locking flap in a substantially upright position, the locking flap having a plurality of buttons and an inner closure mechanism containing an inwardly recessed pocket and an outwardly extending member located above the inwardly recessed pocket;

moving a lid toward the upright lock flap, the lid having a plurality of closing apertures adapted to receive the plurality of buttons, and further having an outer closure mechanism having an inwardly extended member adapted to be received by the inner closure mechanism of the locking flap;

inserting the plurality of buttons into the plurality of closing apertures; and

closing the container by interlocking the outer closure mechanism and the inner closure mechanism, wherein the plurality of buttons extend in a first direction and the

outer closure mechanism extends in a second direction approximately opposite the buttons; and the outwardly extending member of the inner closure mechanism of the locking flap is aligned above the inwardly extending member of the lid when the inwardly extending member is received by the inwardly recessed pocket.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the positioning of the locking flap is assisted by nubs located on the base of the container.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising providing an outward tension on the locking flap of the closed container.

48. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the outward tensioning is performed by at least one nub interacting with at least one projection attached to the lock flap.

49. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the tensioning is performed by at least one hinge member.